fourteen miles. There was also no means of transporting the raw produce of the locality to Talayolaparambu which was the nearest market. The village road from the 110th mile of the Main Central Road to Njizhur temple should be improved. It should also be extended to meet the Talayolaparambu-Kuttattukulam road at the 3rd mile. There was a canal between Kattampakku and Njizhur. This was silted up and was now useful for nothing. It could be deepened and rendered useful as a water-way. But the road was more important.

The Muttedattukavu temple was three miles away from Vaikam. The places about the temple were populous. The two and a half miles of road to that place was considered till now to be a Government road, but it was now understood that a portion was not Sirkar property. It should therefore be acquired and the hindrance removed. The road should also be improved. The Payarukattu *todu* lay across this road. It should be widened and deepened and rendered useful for agriculture.

The road from the 3rd mile, 2nd furlong, of the Vaikam-Udayamperur road running in front of the Maravanturuttu Pakuthi Cutcherry was liable to be flooded during the rains. The level of the road should be raised. The Valampalli *todu* which met this road should be widened and deepened as it was very useful for purposes of irrigation.

The Mekkara Puttan *todu* in Kulasekharamangalam had an opening into the lake and would therefore be useful also for purposes of navigation, if improved. In its present condition, it was a source of havoc to the paddy fields. This evil could be remedied by joining it with the river on the eastern side of the Vaikam-Udayanapuram road.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Narayana Pillai, for the Vaikam-Vechur road, there is a provision of Rs. 1,500 in the current year's budget and the Chief Engineer has an estimate under preparation for the first section. As soon as that is ready and sanctioned, we will get the work done. You refer to the extension of the road to Kumarakam. That matter is under enquiry by local officers. All your other representations regarding roads will receive attention.

2. Then, coming to canals, your first point relates to the widening and deepening of Anchumuna *todu* and Vallayil *todu*. There is a provision of Rs. 1,500 for each of these in the current year's budget. What you ask for is being done.

3. In regard to your next point, *viz.*, joining the Vempallil *todu* with the Kalambukattu *todu*, experts do not agree with you that it is a useful work. To begin with, it is only a scheme to divert flood water from the Minachil river. That will involve in some places cutting down to a depth of 150 ft. which means a good lot of money. Any advantage derived from it will not be in keeping with the money expended. I am afraid I will have to leave it out of the programme of practical politics.

4. Then you talk of deepening the canal between Kattampakku and Njizhur. It is a natural drainage canal. The question of deepening it will have to be looked into to see if it is worth while.

143. Needs of the Vaikam town.

MR. VARKEY AIPORA (*Member, Municipal Council, Vaikam*) said that there were three gravelled roads, seven roads without any coating of gravel and seven lanes branching from the roads. These were within the municipal limits and were in a bad condition. The townsmen did not want new roads. What they wanted was only the improvement of the gravelled roads and the proper gravelling of the other roads and lanes which were covered with sand causing great inconvenience to passengers. These works should be attended to as early as possible.

The roads were water-logged during the rains for want of proper drainage. Masonry drains should be provided on either side of the Udayamperur road for a distance of half a furlong at its southern extremity and the whole of the Padijarenada road which was not more than two furlongs in length. Drainage channels should be cut on the sides of the other roads.

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The *Kaditodu* was choked with sand. The result was that *kadi* and *kanji* from the temple could not be drained into the *Kadikayal*. This was a source of great nuisance to the townsmen as the *kadi* and *kanji* lay clogged and putrified at the very heart of the town and very near the public offices. The drainage channel should therefore be repaired immediately.

The level of the ground on the sides of all the roads in Vaikam was very low and the roads were damaged by the stagnation of water over those areas. For want of water-ways, the owners of the lands found it difficult to raise the level of their compounds. There were already certain canals, but these were not navigable for canoes. These were the Perunchila *todu*, the Antakara *todu* and the Kaniyan *todu*. These should be deepened and rendered negotiable for canoes in which case the people could easily bring earth in canoes and raise the level of the low-lying lands.

The Puttan *todu* itself needed improvement. The embankments should be strengthened, the sides should be cleared, *ghats* should be constructed and the roads along the sides of canals should be improved.

The Public Works Department was not properly attending to the maintenance and the improvement of roads within the Municipal area. The Municipality should therefore be entrusted with the works and the necessary funds granted for the purpose.

The Vaikam Municipal office was now held in a rented building and the financial condition of the Municipality did not permit of a plot of ground being acquired and a permanent building being put up. If the Government would kindly grant a few cents of ground from the premises of any of the public offices or of the hospital, the building could be put up.

The Municipality had not the necessary funds for its development. The townsmen desired to have a library. Several important municipal needs went unattended to for want of funds. The annual grant to the Municipality should therefore be enhanced.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Varkey Aipora, as you are aware, the question of the transfer of minor roads to the Municipality is approaching settlement. When that is completed, the repair of the roads within the Municipality becomes a matter for the Municipality itself. Therefore, as a member of the Municipality, you will have a say on it.

2. As to the usefulness of having masonry drains on both sides of the roads in a flat town, authorities hold different opinions. Therefore, that question will have to be looked into and studied by experts.

3. All the other matters will be considered.

144. Needs of the Kunnatnad taluk.

MR. NARAYANAN KRISHNAN (*Member, Kunnatnad taluk, Group I*) said that it was fourteen years since the Munsiff's court was established at Perumpavur. It was from then held in the *satram* building which was quite insufficient and insecure. Further, there was need for a *satram* in Perumpavur as the camp-shed could not serve the needs of all classes of travellers. A permanent building for the Munsiff's court was therefore an indispensable necessity.

The main occupation of the people of Kunnatnad taluk was agriculture. No improvement had come about in regard to the methods of agriculture in the northern taluks of the State. The opening of an agricultural farm in Perumpavur for purposes of demonstration would be of immense use.

Another urgent need of the Kunnatnad taluk was the raising of the standard of the English Middle School at Perumpavur. Through the heavy losses which the people had suffered from the floods of 1099, it was not possible to put up a building as was promised by them. The Government themselves should therefore put up the necessary buildings and raise the standard of the school.

The dispensary at Perumpavur was twelve years old. The place had grown in importance since its establishment. There was no provision for the treatment of in-patients. It should therefore be raised into a District Hospital. The necessary buildings should also be put up.

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